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No. II.

NO. 5 in the illustrations for this month, we will consider, with its details, by itself. It is the front and side view of a cabinet and stand, containing eighteen drawers. The frame work is constructed of Brazilian wood, with cedar panels, very curiously inlaid with ebony. The angles are richly ornamented with brass fretwork and the key plates are also very prettily worked in the same metal.

Nos. 6 and 7 are full size details of this cabinet. The ebony inlaid decoration, which is indicated on the sketches in black, is further enriched with small ivory dots at irregular intervals. The top is also very elaborately inlaid in a similar style, but I was unfortunately unable to make a sketch of it owing to the cabinet being very awkwardly placed in the museum, entirely preventing the beautiful work in the top from being properly seen. One very noticeable feature in this piece of furniture is the quaint way in which the form of a bird is introduced as a decorative inlay to the feet, the very ingenious manner and the satisfactory form

which this bird is made to assume is a very highly instructive piece of conventional design.

The style is Portuguese seventeenth century, and it is in the South Kensington Museum.

BESSELL'S MEDIUM.—This is a medium for use in painting on satin, silk, and all textile fabrics, and likewise on terra cotta, and as a water color medium. The assertion on the label that it "prevents cracking" is true, but we do not agree that it "intensifies the color," for our experience of it on black silk was that there was a decided lessening of intensity, it needing several coats over the same spot to bring the pigment up to full strength. On satin, however, the result was much more satisfactory, and we can confidently recommend its use. It will be a disappointment to many that it will not mix with the ordinary tube oil colors. This should, we think, be stated on the labels.—*The Artist.*

THE attaching of initial silver letters of christian or surnames, or both, separately or in monogram form, on cases, miniature oak chests, book covers and other objects has struck the fancy of ladies and given more work to jewelers. Designed with grace they constitute an elegant embellishment to a plain surface.

THE Moresque arch, so admirably suited to cover the upper front of recesses in cabinets and overmantels as well as to screen upper portion of portières, is all the more valuable for decorative purposes in its pleasing combinations and luxurious form, as it was never designed for, and, as wanting in thrust, is unsuited to be, a main support of a

superincumbent weight. In Moorish architecture, where it is used, it is lintels, pillars and walls that support this weight.

A LIQUID for etching on glass, that can be used with an ordinary pen, has recently been introduced. It consists of hydrofluoric acid, ammonium fluoride, and oxalic acid, and is thickened with barium sulphate. Another, and, it is said, a better ink for the same purpose, is obtained as follows: Equal parts of the double hydrogen ammonium fluoride and dried precipitated barium sulphate are ground together in a porcelain mortar. The mixture is then treated in a platinum, lead, or gutta-percha dish with fuming hydrofluoric acid, until the latter ceases to react.

MOSAIC hearth-stones of latest styles have the whole ground, with the exception of set designs in center and the lines or bands of borders, filled up with irregular parti-colored forms or are built in geometrically around encaustic tiles in chromatic patterns with narrow oblong cubes.

A PECULIARLY good pattern effect for oil cloths is produced by adoption of mosaic styles, as in a series of circles, with conventionalized figures for center and filled in by narrowing rings from the circumference with cubes of different colors.

BASKET forms are made like Chinese pagodas, the curved roofs being interlaced with ribbon and hung with metal bells. Each successive tier of stories can be uncovered.



No. 6

Detail of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the side Panel

EP del.

